

I. AMENDMENTS**a) In the Specification**

Substitute the pending paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8, and ending on page 9, line 4, with the following paragraph.

-- The friendship bracelet 10, as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, includes a wristband section 20, closure means 40, and a plurality of closed members 60 having indicia 62 thereon. Band section 20 includes an outer surface layer 22 made of a fabric material 24. Fabric materials 24 used for the outer surface layer 22 include cotton, rayon, nylon, silk, linen, polyester and combinations thereof. Outer surface layer 22 is joined together at a seam line 26 by means of stitching 50, gluing 52 and the like, and having an open space 28 formed therein for receiving of an elongated elastic strip 30 therein. Elastic strip 30 may be made of elastic materials such as elasticized plastics, rubber, plasticized rubber, elasticized fabric materials and the like. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the elastic strip 30 is disposed in the open space 28 and is connected to first and second end wall tab members 32 and 34 of band section 20 by means of stitching 50, gluing 52, stapling 54, laser fusing (not shown) and the like. Tab members 32 and 34 include closure means 40 thereon for connecting the end wall tab members 32 and 34 together to form a closed bracelet 10, as depicted in Figure 1 of the drawings. Closure means 40 can be selected from the group consisting of snaps 42s clasps 44c, hook and loop tabs or fasteners 46h, buckle and tine members 48b, hook members, buttons and the like, as depicted in Figures 5, 6A, 6B and 6C of the drawings.--

Substitute the pending paragraph beginning on page 10, line 23, and ending on page 11, line 12, with the following paragraph.

-- In operation, the friendship bracelet 10 of a first wearer 12 with that of a second friendship bracelet 10' of a second wearer 12' includes the following steps, as depicted in detail by Figures 1, 6A to 7B of the drawings. The first step 410 is the opening of the releasable closure means 40 (e.g. snaps 42s, or 44c clasps, or Velcro™